

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 MC-02 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01
L-03 ACDA-07 /063 R

DRAFTED BY EA/TB:RASMITH:PM/SAS:KOCHANNEK:MFG
APPROVED BY EA - RHMILLER
EA/RA - COL. BAILEY (DRAFT)
PM/MC - MR. SUCHINSKY (SUBS.)
----- 102478 /15
R 222307Z DEC 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, MASS, PFOR, EGEN

SUBJECT: MUNITIONS PRODUCTION IN THAILAND

REF: STATE 186971

1. IN JANUARY 1976 THE DEPARTMENT RECEIVED A REQUEST FROM
U.S. MUNITIONS CONSORTIUM (USMC) FOR AN ADVISORY OPINION
ON ESTABLISHING A 20MM AMMUNITION LOADING AND ASSEMBLY
PLANT. ON MARCH 26, 1976 THE OFFICE OF MUNITIONS CONTROL
STATED THAT THE "U.S. GOVERNMENT HAD NO OBJECTIONS TO THE
PROPOSAL" UNDER THEN EXISTING CONDITIONS. THE ADVISORY
OPINION IS NOT AUTHORIZATION TO PROCEED WITH ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE PLANT. THE PRESUMPTION, HOWEVER, IS THAT THE USG
WOULD APPROVE A USMC APPLICATION BARRING UNFORESEEN CHANGES
IN THE POLITICAL SITUATION OR IN THE SUBSTANCE OF THE USMC
PROPOSAL. UPON DEPARTMENT APPROVAL THE USMC APPLICATION
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WOULD THEN BE SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS UNDER SECTION 36(D),
OF THE ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT. WE DO NOT AS YET HAVE AN
APPLICATION FROM USMC.

2. RELATED TO ABOVE ADVISORY OPINION, EA/TB IS NOW IN
RECEIPT OF TWO MUNITIONS CONTROL LICENSE APPLICATIONS

TOTALING 9.4 MILLION DOLLARS FROM BERMITE, A DIVISION OF WHITTAKER CORP. THE FIRST IS THE TEXT OF THE MANUFACTURING

LICENSE AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH AND OPERATE A 20MM AMMUNITION LOADING AND ASSEMBLY LINE. THE SECOND CASE IS FOR THE EXPORT OF PARTS, COMPONENTS, TOOLING AND EQUIPMENT TO ASSEMBLE 20MM AMMUNITION. BERMITE IS THE SUB-CONTRACTOR FOR U.S. MUNITIONS (THAILAND) LTD. OF 302 SILOM ROAD, BANGKOK 5, WHICH IS THE CONSIGNEE OF THE PARTS AND EQUIPMENT.

3. BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH THESE TWO CASES WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY EMBASSY COMMENT. (FYI: IT NOW APPEARS LIKELY THAT NO LICENSE WILL BE SUBMITTED BY USMC FOR APPROVAL BY USG. THEREFORE, APPROVAL OF THE TWO BERMITE/WHITTAKER LICENSES WILL CONSTITUTE USG APPROVAL OF THE OVERALL PROJECT. END FYI).
ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MUNITIONS CONTROLS, INDUSTRIAL PLANTS, LICENSES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ullricre
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE309489
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RASMITH:PM/SAS:KOCHANNEK:MFG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760470-1005
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761219/aaaaaqhb.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 186971
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ullricre
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUN 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <19 OCT 2004 by ullricre>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MUNITIONS PRODUCTION IN THAILAND
TAGS: MARR, MASS, PFOR, EGEN, MNUC
To: BANGKOK
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006